

# News from Ed Markey

**United States Congress**

**Massachusetts Seventh District**

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## **Dems' GI Bill to Ensure Troops Who Sustain Wounds Do Not Also Sustain Pay Cuts**

*Representative Markey continues the fight for special pays for  
wounded soldiers*

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA) today joined 157 fellow Democrats in supporting the "GI Bill of Rights for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," introduced by Rep. Chet Edwards (D-TX). The bill, HR 2131 is a package of legislative provisions that was first unveiled by House Democrats in April. The package will improve services for our men and women in uniform today and provide long overdue benefits for the veterans and military retirees who have already served. The bill also includes the "Crosby-Puller Combat Wounds Compensation Act," legislation that was introduced earlier this year by Rep. Markey to ensure that the pays of injured soldiers that are evacuated from the combat zone for treatment are protected.

"The brave men and women in our Armed Services are heroes and they deserve our full support. Right now, we are adding salt to the wounds of injured soldiers by slashing their salaries when they get injured," Rep Markey stated. "The new GI Bill ensures that all of our troops are honored; whether they are fighting in the combat zone, injured or retired from service, every man and woman that has put on the uniform to serve our country needs to know that their sacrifice will not be forgotten."

The new GI Bill of Rights for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will improve benefits for our men and women in uniform by bolstering our support for our troops in harms way, as well as their families here at home. Further, there are special provisions for the National Guard and Reserve, as their service in Iraq and Afghanistan has been above the call of duty. It will provide better education, health care and job training benefits for those who have answered the call.

For our troops, this package will modernize and enhance the GI Bill – providing the full cost for college or job training for those serving four years of active duty. These provisions are critical to helping our returning soldiers become a productive part of a prosperous economy, and also provide an important recruiting tool to encourage new soldiers to sign up.

"On the battlefield, soldiers pledge to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, let it be our pledge that we too will leave no member behind. Let us honor their service with a New GI Bill of Rights worthy of our grateful nation," said Rep. Markey.

Rep. Markey took up the cause of protecting the special pays of combat wounded soldiers when a constituent of his, Lance Corporal James Crosby, was wounded by enemy fire while riding on a U.S. military vehicle in Iraq and suffered instantaneous and substantial pay cuts along with his wounds. James

is one of many wounded soldiers that would benefit from the special pays that are provided in the new GI bill.

For more information on Rep. Markey's work to protect the special pays of combat wounded veterans check out: <http://www.house.gov/markey/>

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